

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF
1996

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, February 8th marks the fourth anniversary of the historic Telecommunications Act of 1996. The purpose of the Act was to unleash competition in all telecommunications markets and thus achieve unprecedented investment and technological innovation. Businesses would enjoy substantial productivity gains and consumers would have access to new technologies that promised profound changes in the way we work, communicate and entertain. Schools, libraries and homes would have access to information that is revolutionizing the way we educate ourselves. Electronic commerce, distance learning, and telemedicine have all become realities. The progress we've seen in the four short years—in Kentucky and nationwide—has been remarkable and rapid. Consider the following:

The Explosion of the Internet. There were 50 million Internet users just two years ago and today there are more than 80 million Americans online and 200 million worldwide. Electronic commerce is projected to be a trillion-dollar activity in the next three to five years.

Ninety-nine percent of American households—in both urban and rural areas—can reach the Internet via a local telephone call. Substantial new network investment by Internet backbone providers has made this possible. In 1996, 14 such providers existed; by 1999, that number had more than tripled to 43. In four years, Internet backbone providers expanded their points of presence—where Internet Service Providers (ISP's) establish high-speed links to the backbone—from less than 70 to more than 1000.

The number of ISPs offering consumers Internet access has exploded—today there are more than 6,500 ISPs nationwide. Forty-six states have 100 or more ISPs, including my home state of Kentucky.

Independent rural telephone companies and cooperatives offer Internet connectivity—97 percent offer Internet dial-up at speeds of up to 56K, and 30 percent are offering broadband services (1999 NCTA survey).

The number of competitive carriers has increased dramatically. Today, over 600 long distance companies compete against one another in a dynamic market that has seen per-minute prices drop to 5 cents. In addition, the Act spurred the creation of more than 375 new entrepreneurial companies that are fighting to bring competition to local telephone markets.

These new local competitors, called "CLECs," have grown significantly since 1996. They now employ 70,000 people and have invested \$30 billion in new networks since pas-

sage of the Act. In four years, their market capitalization has increased from \$3.1 billion to about \$85 billion today.

In my home state of Kentucky, 25 CLECs are up and running.

In short Mr. Speaker, the Telecommunications Act is working. It has been a catalyst for almost unimaginable technological progress. Having said that, our work as a nation is not done—there are still some Americans who need access to better, faster and more affordable means of communication. However, we are heading in the right direction and the Telecommunications Act along with the millions of American men and women working in the industry are the driving force.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE LT.
MARGARET O'MALLEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lt. Margaret O'Malley, who passed away recently after battling with liver cancer at the age of 44. Lt. O'Malley had been in charge of security at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport since 1993.

Lt. O'Malley received much accreditation for her hard work and innovative ideas. She was awarded several commendations from the Secret Service for her assistance in providing security when President Clinton landed at Cleveland Hopkins Airport aboard Air Force One. She accommodated numerous celebrities throughout her seven years of work at the airport, including Bette Midler and Melissa Etheridge, and also worked to ensure the safety of the Cleveland Indians when fans poured into the airport to greet the team in the wee hours of the morning after their pennant-clinching victory. According to Capt. Margaret A. Downing, who was Lt. O'Malley's domestic partner for the past 19 years. "Often, when celebrities arrived, she expedited their travel through the airport." Also, in order to aid her staff, the Lt. arranged for the donation of several bicycles so that officers could patrol the airport by bicycle. Although her primary concern was the safety of travelers in the airport, she also worked to enhance the experience of visitors to the city and to accommodate the local residents who came to the airport to greet friends and relatives.

The Cleveland native followed in the footsteps of her father Michael, who is also a Cleveland police lieutenant. The elder O'Malley has the most seniority of any officer in the 1,850-member department. The younger O'Malley grew up in Cleveland and Fairview Park. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Edgecliffe College, now part of Xavier University. She was accepted into

the police academy in 1979, was promoted to sergeant in 1985, and promoted again to lieutenant in 1993.

Lt. O'Malley also excelled when she was not in uniform. She coordinated women's sporting events for police officers and friends, including volleyball matches and softball games. Last summer, she organized a charitable golf outing that benefited the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Her zest for life invigorated all those around her.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Lt. O'Malley's hard work and dedication to her community. The great lengths she took to ensure safety to all and her commitment to the people of Cleveland will be greatly missed.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELKS
BPOE LODGE 481

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of an organization that I am proud to be a member of, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge 481 in Belleville, Illinois.

The beginnings for the Elks organization is credited to Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian. Born in London, Vivian arrived in New York in 1867. Vivian, an actor, met with a group of other theatrical entertainers to create a loose organization called the Jolly Corks. When one of the members died in 1867, leaving both his wife and his children destitute, the Jolly Corks decided, that in addition to good fellowship, they needed a more enduring organization to serve those in need. On February 16, 1868, they established the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks and elected Vivian to head it. As word of it's social activities and benefit performances increased and spread to other cities, other Elk's "lodges" were formed.

The legacy of Charles Vivian continues to this day. In addition to aiding members in distress, the Elks raise money for children with disabilities, college scholarships, youth projects and recreational programs for patients in veterans hospitals.

In 1907, the Elks held the first flag day observance. This tradition, started by the Elks, was later declared a national holiday by President Harry S Truman. During World War I, the Elks funded and equipped field hospitals in France. Their loans to 40,000 returning veterans for college, rehabilitation and education was the precursor to the original GI bill. The Elks were used during WWII to recruit construction workers for the military and they also contributed books to the Merchant Marines. During the Korean War, the Elks gave more than a half million pints of blood to help the

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